



March 4, 2026  
Rhode Island State House of Representatives  
House Committee on Finance  
(Submitted electronically via [housefinance@rilegislature.gov](mailto:housefinance@rilegislature.gov))

Re: Support for Article 10, Sections 2; Chapter 8.6  
Rhode Island 9-8-8 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the Committee:

Please accept the Rhode Island Health Center Association's letter of **support** for **Article 10, Section 2, Chapter 6**, which recognizes the state's 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.

The implementation of the 988-dialing code as the national number for the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline represents progress in the effort for accessible mental health support. This easily remembered three-digit number provides a vital lifeline for individuals experiencing suicidal thoughts, emotional distress, or any other behavioral health crisis. In Rhode Island, 988 calls are answered by BH Link, part of Horizon Healthcare Partners. Rhode Island boasts a 98% answer rate, one of the best in-state call answer rates in the country.

We thank the Governor for recognizing the vital role of the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and would ask you to consider longer-term, sustained investment in the 988 program to strengthen our public mental health infrastructure. By ensuring adequate and stable funding, the program can meet growing demand, expand access to crisis care, and reduce the burden on emergency services. By supporting 988, we are committing to a more responsive, equitable, and effective system of care for individuals in mental health crisis.

Thank you for your consideration.

*M. Campbell*

Melissa Campbell  
Policy Manager  
Rhode Island Health Center Association

The Rhode Island Health Center Association members include:  
Blackstone Valley Community Health Care Inc. ~ Comprehensive Community Action Program  
East Bay Community Action Program ~ Providence Community Health Centers  
Thundermist Health Center ~ Tri-County Community Action Agency  
WellOne Primary Medical and Dental Care ~ Wood River Health